Abstract

A process and device are disclosed to determine the activity of enzymes in liquids in a largely automatic manner. The device for carrying out this process has a column with an chromatographic carrier for treating a measurement sample. The carrier is mixed with a substance capable of binding to an enzyme inhibitor present in the measurement sample and that corresponds to at least one enzyme. A measurement sample supply is associated to one end of the column. A valve/pump arrangement for filling at least one test tube with a carrier and at least part of the measurement sample is connected downstream of the column, in the flow direction of the measurement sample. The carrier is dissociated into cleavage products by the action of the enzyme. The rise in concentration per unit of time of at least one of the cleavage products of the carrier is sensed during an incubation time. As an alternative or supplementary step, the enzyme that corresponds to at least one enzyme inhibitor is extracted by chromatography from a measurement sample to detect enzyme inhibitors in liquids and the thus treated measurement sample is tested for inhibitor concentration and/or activity.